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EXAMINER

CHANDLER, SARA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3693

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/997,716		HOFFMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Sara Chandler		3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/11/03; 06/06/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains legal phraseology such as "comprises" and because it exceeds a 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "financial instrument terms and related information." It is unclear exactly what information is intended because what would be considered "related" is relative.

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Claim 1 recites the limitation “entering into said interface the terms of a financial instrument, such as the start and maturity date, interest rate, payment periods and all other information that may pertain to the particulars of an instrument;”

The phrase “such as” renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). For example, is what is required any “terms of a financial instrument” or specifically “the start and maturity date, interest rate, payment periods and all other information that may pertain to the particulars of an instrument.”

Futhermore, it is unclear how “all other information that may pertain” is further limiting. Any information could fall into this definition because “may” does present a actual requirement just the possibility. See MPEP § 2106 II C.

The limitation is interpreted as “entering into said interface the terms of a financial instrument.” See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite, “desired terms corresponding to those that one desires.” It is unclear who or what “that one” is?

Claims 1 and 2 recite, “entering a dealer name and any other optional information?” It is unclear what information is referred to because any information can be “optional”. See MPEP § 2106 II C.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation, “entering an allocation, said allocation being symbolized by an allocation name, such as ‘deutsche mark hedged’ or ‘deutsche mark hedging’, and said allocation having an attribute of being a hedging or a hedged trade, and a descriptive strategy denominator, such as ‘deutsche mark currency’, saving said

settle date, trade quantity, price, dealer name, allocation and any other optional information comprising trade details;"

See discussion supra regarding "such as" and "any other optional information."

In regards to Claim 1, there is insufficient antecedent basis for, "said settle date, trade quantity, price and dealer name". There appears to be an issue of inconsistent terminology for "settle date" and "trade quantity".

The limitation is interpreted as "entering an allocation, said allocation being symbolized by an allocation name, and said allocation having an attribute of being a hedging or a hedged trade, and a descriptive strategy denominator," See MPEP § 2111.

Claim 1 recites, "collecting daily market data related to the instruments one may hold or may plan to hold in one's portfolio, said market data saved daily such that a history of daily market data may be maintained in a database table for that purpose"

See discussion supra regarding "may" and "the one".

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation, "allowing a user the ability to enter in marks for the terms of said instrument and said trade details in to the marks table, which marks may vary from those determined by the above application of market data to the terms of said instrument and said trade details, wherein said marks express the opinion of said user with respect to the value of said instrument;"

See discussion supra regarding "may".

Furthermore, "wherein" is not further limiting. See MPEP § 2106 II C; MPEP § 2111.04.

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Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation, “applying the terms of the instrument and said trade details, said market data, and said set of marks to a set of data requests and calculation instructions to output data responsive to said data requests in the form of annotated trade events related to instruments in said internal account, said annotated trade events being output in the form of output variable-value pairs associated with a particular instrument and other information comprising annotated trade event identification information, whereby variable-value pairs express such things as present value, interest paid to date, interest received to date, interest due to be paid, interest due to be received, and the like;”

In regards to, “a particular instrument and other information”. What “other information” information is referred to?

The phrase “such things as” renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

The phrase “and the like” renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by “and the like”), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Furthermore, “whereby” is not further limiting. See MPEP § 2106 II C; MPEP § 2111.04.

Claims 1 and 2 recite, “standard accounting practices”. What standard practices are referred to?

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Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation, “reordering the application of Meta account rules if such reordering is required by the existence of an offset;”

The phrase “if” is optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation, “associating said annotated trade event with all other annotated trade events to which it is matched whereby the position associated with said trade event is reduced by a percentage if there is a match, where a match is defined by a Meta account matching rule and ordering said associated trade events on a first-in, first-out basis;”

“whereby” is not further limiting. See MPEP § 2106 II C; MPEP § 2111.04.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for “the position” recited in the limitation.

In regards to “reduced by a percentage.” It is indefinite because an acceptable percentage range is not provided. Thus, all possible percentages meet the claim.

The phrase “if” is optional language. MPEP § 2106 II C

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation “computing the percentage of a trade that is matched if said trade has been matched.”

The phrase “if” is optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite, “computing a balance and storing the same”.

A balance of what?

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation “optionally masking trade details;”

The phrase "if" is optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation "generating journal entries based on said sets of balances if said difference does not equal zero;"

The phrase "if" is optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation "optionally determining if the user has required further processing;"

The phrases "optionally" and "if" are optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite the limitation "if said user has required further processing, employing a scripted set of rules and selecting a first set of information from said posted journal entry batches;"

The phrase "if" is optional language, and thus there is not a positive limitation recited. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claims 1 and 2 recite "journal entry batches or other information." What information is referred to.

Claims 1 and 2 reference "repeating steps" presented earlier in the claim.

The limitations do not further limit the claims. See MPEP § 2106 II C; See MPEP § 2111.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis, US Pat. No. 6,513,019.

Re Claim 1: Lewis discloses an accounting process of the type employing a subledger specific to the particular area of financial portfolio management, wherein the improvement comprises a process such that accounts in said subledgers may be created and maintained by employing user-defined accounting rules associated with each account balance in conjunction with life to date information on the positions in a portfolio, the above accounting rules being referred to as meta accounts, the collection of all meta accounts being referred to as a master account, said process comprising the steps of:

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(a) outputting to the user an interface calling for financial instrument terms and related information (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);

(b) entering into said interface the terms of a financial instrument, such as the start and maturity date, interest rate, payment periods and all other information that may pertain to the particulars of an instrument (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);

(c) saving said instrument information in a database table specific to instrument data (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 - col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 - 56; col. 17, lines 34 - 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

(d) outputting to the user an interface calling for trade information (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);

(e) inputting into said interface the name of an instrument having desired terms corresponding to those that one desires to implement in a particular trade;

(f) entering the trade date associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);

(g) entering the trade date quantity associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24 - 44);

(h) entering the price associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24 - 44);

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- (i) entering a dealer name and any other optional information associated with said trade;
- (j) entering an allocation, said allocation being symbolized by an allocation name, such as "deutsche mark hedged" or "deutsche mark hedging", and said allocation having an attribute of being a hedging or a hedged trade, and a descriptive strategy denominator, such as "deutsche mark currency", saving said settle date, trade quantity, price, dealer name, allocation and any other optional information comprising trade details (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24 - 44);
- (k) saving said trade details to a table specific to a trade data in a database, said database storing information respecting a plurality of instruments associated with a particular internal account (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 - col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 - 56; col. 17, lines 34 - 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);
- (m) collecting daily market data related to the instruments one may hold or may plan to hold in one's portfolio, said market data saved daily such that a history of daily market data may be maintained in a database table for that purpose (Lewis, col. 2, lines 10-55; col. 3, lines 1-17; col. 4, lines 28-43; col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 6, lines 60 - col. 7, line 30; col. 8, lines 49-31; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 11, line 25; col. 11, line 55 - col. 12, line 16; col. 15, line 42+ 0 col. 19, line 56; col. 20, lines 62-65; col. 21, lines 15-42).
- (n) retrieving the terms of said instrument (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line

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6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 – col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 – 56; col. 17, lines 34 – 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

(o) retrieving the details of said trade (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 – col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 – 56; col. 17, lines 34 – 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

(p) evaluating the value of the quantity of the instrument by applying said market data to the terms of said instrument and said trade details to determine value and any interest due to complete a mark to market process, as of a selected effective date, and output a set of marks saved into the database in a marks table (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(q) allowing a user the ability to enter in marks for the terms of said instrument and said trade details in to the marks table, which marks may vary from those determined by the above application of market data to the terms of said instrument and said trade details, wherein said marks express the opinion of said user with respect to the value of said instrument (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(r) applying the terms of the instrument and said trade details, said market data, and said set of marks to a set of data requests and calculation instructions to output data responsive to said data requests in the form of annotated trade events related to instruments in said internal account, said annotated trade events being output in the form of output variable-value pairs associated with a particular instrument and other information comprising annotated trade event identification information, whereby

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variable-value pairs express such things as present value, interest paid to date, interest received to date, interest due to be paid, interest due to be received, and the like

(Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(s) beginning to process trade events by ordering the application of Meta account rules based upon standard accounting practices such that there is a logical ordering of account processing (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(t) designating a designated place in memory for receiving specified items of information needed to form a ledger balance (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(u) reading the first annotated trade event from memory (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(v) evaluating said first annotated trade event and applying the applicable Meta account rules to determine if there is an offset (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(w) reordering the application of Meta account rules if such reordering is required by the existence of an offset (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col.

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10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(x) assembling information called for by the first Meta account rule for calculating the balances affected by the first annotated trade event (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(y) associating said annotated trade event with all other annotated trade events to which it is matched whereby the position associated with said trade event is reduced by a percentage if there is a match, where a match is defined by a Meta account matching rule and ordering said associated trade events on a first-in, first-out basis (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(z) computing the percentage of a trade that is matched if said trade has been matched (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(aa) based upon annotated trading events and applicable Meta account rules, computing a balance and storing the same in said designated place in memory for receiving specified items of information to form a ledger balance (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12,

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line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(dd) forming a set of the balances for the effective date (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ee) optionally masking trade details (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(ff) generating a set of balances for all days prior to the effective date (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(gg) polling all journal entry batches posted for said internal account being processed prior to said effective date and calculating and constructing a historical set of balances (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(hh) comparing said set of balances to said historical set of balances to obtain a difference (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ii) generating journal entries based on said sets of balances if said difference does not equal zero (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30;

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col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(jj) writing said journal entries (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(kk) posting said journal entries in the form of batches of journal entries which are saved to a database containing all journal entry batches previously posted (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ll) optionally determining if the user has required further processing (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(mm) if said user has required further processing, employing a scripted set of rules and selecting a first set of information from said posted journal entry batches (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(nn) employing said scripted set of rules to select a second set of information from said posted journal entry batches or other information derived from said journal entry batches (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(oo) evaluating said first and second sets of information with respect to each other to determine whether a further operation is required (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13); and

(pp) performing said further operation (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13).

Lewis fails to explicitly disclose:

- (l) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades;
- (bb) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts;
- (cc) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events;

Official Notice is taken that is old and well-known to repeat a process for a plurality of similar or related objects, items etc. For example, the processing of checking account information at a bank is repeated for each of multiple accounts for a particular customer, or the same process is used with holders of comparable accounts. Specifically, (l) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades; (bb) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts; (cc) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events is old and well-known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lewis to provide:

- (l) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades;
- (bb) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts;
- (cc) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events.

One would have been motivated by speed and efficiency to repeat the same process with similar trades, accounts etc. and one would have been motivated by customer will to repeat the process to adapt to the needs of customers with varying accounts and portfolio sizes.

Re Claim 2: An accounting process of the type employing a general ledger which is broken out into a plurality of subledgers which in turn are broken out into a number of

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accounts, some of said accounts being parent accounts, which parent accounts are broken out into child accounts, wherein the improvement comprises that said subledgers have accounting rules associated with them, said accounts have accounting rules associated with them, and said child accounts have accounting rules associated with them, the above accounting rules being referred to as Meta accounts, the collection of all Meta accounts being referred to as a master account, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) outputting to the user an interface calling for trade information (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);
- (b) inputting into said interface the name of an instrument having desired terms corresponding to those which one desires to implement in a particular trade (Lewis, col. 5, lines 48+ - col. 6, line 25; col. 8, line 24-40; col. 19, lines 56+ - col. 22, line 50);
- (c) entering the trade date associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24-44);
- (d) entering the settle date associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24-44);
- (e) entering the trade quantity associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24-44);
- (f) entering the price associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24-44);
- (g) entering a dealer name and any other optional information associated with said trade (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24-44);

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(h) entering an allocation, said the allocation being symbolized by an allocation name, such as deutsche mark hedged or deutsche mark hedging, and said allocation having an attribute of being a hedging or a hedged trade, and a descriptive strategy denominator, such as deutsche mark currency, said settle date, trade quantity, price, dealer name, allocation and any other optional information comprising trade details (Lewis, col. 2, lines 3-55; col. 12, line 17+ - col. 14, line 32; col. 20, lines 24 - 44);

(i) saving said trade details to a database, said database storing information respecting a plurality of instruments associated with a particular internal account (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 - col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 - 56; col. 17, lines 34 - 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

(k) downloading market data daily and saving the same in a database of historical market data (Lewis, col. 2, lines 10-55; col. 3, lines 1-17; col. 4, lines 28-43; col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 6, lines 60 - col. 7, line 30; col. 8, lines 49-31; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 11, line 25; col. 11, line 55 - col. 12, line 16; col. 15, line 42+ 0 col. 19, line 56; col. 20, lines 62-65; col. 21, lines 15-42);

(1) retrieving the terms of said instrument (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 - col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 - 56; col. 17, lines 34 - 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

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(m) retrieving the details of said trade (Lewis, abstract, col. 2, lines 55-67; col. 3, lines 32-43; col. 4, lines 50+ - col. 8, line 18; col. 8, line 49- col. 9, line 32; col. 10, line 6-20; col. 10, line 55+ - col. 13, line 58; col. 14, lines 12 – col. 15, line 54; col. 16, lines 28 – 56; col. 17, lines 34 – 54; col. 18, lines 38-54; col. 21, lines 15+ - col. 22, line 50);

(n) evaluating the value of the quantity of the instrument by applying said market data to the terms of the instrument and said trade details to determine value and any interest due to complete a mark to market process, as of a selected effective date, and output a set of marks saved into the database in a marks table (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(o) allowing a user the ability to enter in marks for the terms of said instrument and said trade details, which marks vary from those determined by the above application of market data to the terms of said instrument and said trade details, wherein said marks express the opinion of said user with respect to the value of said instrument (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(p) applying said market data, the terms of the instrument and said trade details, and said set of marks to a set of data requests and calculation instructions to output data responsive to said data requests in the form of annotated trade events related to instruments in said internal account, said annotated trade events being output in the form of output variable-value pairs associated with a particular instrument and other information comprising annotated trade event-identification information, whereby variable-value pairs express such things as present value, interest paid to date, interest

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received to date, interest due to be paid, interest due to be received, and the like

(Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(q) beginning to process trade events by ordering the application of Meta account rules based upon a logical ordering of Meta account rules based on standard accounting practices (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(r) designating a designated place in memory for receiving specified items of information to form a ledger balance (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(s) reading the first annotated trade event from memory (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(t) evaluating said first annotated trade event and by applying the applicable Meta account rules to determine if there is an offset (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(u) reordering the application of Meta account rules if such reordering is required by the existence of an offset (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

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(v) assembling information called for by the first Meta account rule for calculating the balances affected by the first annotated trade event (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(w) associating said annotated trade event with all other annotated trade events to which it is matched whereby the position associated with said trade event is reduced by a percentage if there is a match, where a match is defined by a Meta account matching rule and ordering said associated trade events on a first-in, first-out basis (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(x) computing the percentage of a trade that is matched if said trade has been matched (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

(y) based upon annotated trading events and applicable Meta account rules, computing a balance and storing the same in said designated place in memory for receiving specified items of information to form a ledger balance (Lewis, col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 8, line 19-20; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 10, lines 6-20; col. 11, lines 3-33; col. 12, line 65+ - col. 5, line 8; col. 14, line 12+ - col. 16, line 27; col. 16, line 43+ - col. 17, line 41);

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(bb) forming a set of the balances for the effective date (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(cc) optionally masking trade details (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(dd) generating a set of balances for all days prior to the effective date (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ee) polling all journal entry batches posted for said internal account being processed prior to said effective date and calculating and constructing a historical set of balances (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ff) comparing said set of balances to said historical set of balances to obtain a difference (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(gg) generating journal entries based on said sets of balances if said difference does not equal zero (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

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(hh) writing said journal entries (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(ii) posting said journal entries in the form of batches of journal entries which are saved to a database containing all journal entry batches previously posted (Lewis, col. 3, lines 17-31; col. 4, lines 7-27; col. 6, line 60+ - col. 7, line 30; col. 9, lines 15-31; col. 11, lines 25-33; col. 12, line 28+ - col. 16, line 42; col. 18, lines 1-37; col. 19, line 37+ - col. 22, line 48);

(jj) optionally determining if the user has required further processing (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(kk) if said user has required further processing, selecting a first set of information from said posted journal entry batches (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(ll) selecting a second set of information from said posted journal entry batches or other information derived from said journal entry batches (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13);

(mm) evaluating said first and second sets of information with respect to each other to determine whether a further operation is required (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13); and

(pp) performing said further operation (Lewis, abstract, col. 1, line 1+ - col. 24, line 13).

Lewis fails to explicitly disclose:

(j) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades and compiling and storing market data relating to said instrument;

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(z) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts;

(aa) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events.

Official Notice is taken that is old and well-known to repeat a process for a plurality of similar or related objects, items etc. For example, the processing of checking account information at a bank is repeated for each of multiple accounts for a particular customer, or the same process is used with holders of comparable accounts. Specifically, (j) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades and compiling and storing market data relating to said instrument; (z) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts; (aa) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events is old and well-known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lewis to provide:

(j) repeating steps a through i for a plurality of trades and compiling and storing market data relating to said instrument;

(z) repeating steps w, x and y for all other Meta accounts;

(aa) repeating steps t, u, v, w, x, y and z for all annotated trade events.

One would have been motivated by speed and efficiency to repeat the same process with similar trades, accounts etc. and one would have been motivated by customer will to repeat the process to adapt to the needs of customers with varying accounts and portfolio sizes.

Conclusion

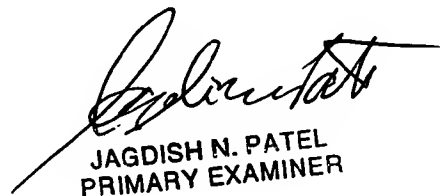
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara Chandler whose telephone number is 571-272-1186. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SMC


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